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solidated. Moslem missionaries have been massacred, and sometimes barbarous executions are thought to be more deterrent to violent and predatory crimes than the endless hangings and life imprisonment which characterize the British government of India. Moslem missionaries do not worry nor exasperate, but take plastic boys to Kabul and make them zealous followers of the great prophet of Arabia. The fervor of proselytes is proverbially without limit. Whatever the future of this land, it will not change its religion, for here the Kafirs have become Sheikhs. In emergencies the old heathen rites will crop up again, but the country is now Mohammedan.

*Weird Tales from Northern Seas from the Danish of Jonas Lie*, by R. NISBET BAIN. With twelve illustrations by Laurence Housman. Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., Ltd., London, 1893. pp. 201.

This book consists of eleven tales translated from the Danish of Jonas Lie whose work has long been well known to all interested in such themes. He is best where he tells the weird legends of his native province, Nordland, in which he was himself brought up. The folklore of these lonely, subarctic tracts is in keeping with the savagery of nature. Elves and gnomes are rarely friendly, but all the supernatural beings that haunt sea and shore in these regions are malignant, malific, hating man and delighting to mock his toil and sport with his despair.

*Hinter Kerkermauern; Autobiographien und Selbstbekentnisse, Aufsätze und Gedichte von Verbrechern; ein Beitrag zur Kriminall-psychologie*, von JOHANNES JAEGER, Mecklenburg, Berlin, 1906. pp. 436.

We have here an interesting and unique volume made up almost entirely of writings of prisoners. They are classified first, as auto-biographic or confessional; second, those describing the cause of the crime, or the criminal propensity; third, those expressing the meditations and reflections of criminals in prison; fourth, religious thoughts; fifth, the opinions of criminals on social questions; sixth, their views on penology. Many poems are included. The author is a prison chaplain who appears very little, but expresses his most emphatic dissent from the conclusions of the Lombroso school. He even denies that there are any typical varieties of criminals or that there are morphological or psychological traits, but thinks that crime is essentially a product of the *milieu*. Criminals, he insists, show the same psychological traits that others would show under like conditions. This opinion he bases upon fifteen years experience with them. These psychological documents certainly give a most interesting inner view of the souls of a class of people, knowledge of whom is commonly a book of seven seals.

*Woman*, by BERNARD S. TALMEY. The Stanley Press, Chicago, 1906. pp. 228.

This book is written by a gynecologist and is designed for physicians and students of medicine. In the introduction, we have thirteen brief chapters of phallicism, prudery, results of silence, love and passion, etc. Then follows the evolution of sex, a chapter each upon anatomy and the physiology of the sexual instinct and act. Part fifth is devoted to pathology and then follow three larger parts on hygiene, psychology, and morality respectively. The book is written with extraordinary plainness and with little attempt to beat the bush in discussing delicate matters.

*Man and Woman, the female the higher type*, by WILLIAM T. BELFIELD. E. W. Broman, Chicago, 1907. pp. III.

Mr. Belfield is well known as a writer upon the pedigree and heredity of the horse and to this he has contributed many important and valuable points. In this pamphlet he turns his attention to stirpiculture in the human field and discusses briefly and aphoristically such topics as puberty, senility, descent, the comparison of the sexes, nameless diseases, etc., with particular reference to their evolutionary bearings.

*The Inter-generation Period*, by CHARLES H. CHANDLER. From the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters. Vol. XII, pp. 499-504. Issued in October, 1899, in advance of the general publication.

The author examined nearly 16,000 dates of births of New England families and finds that on the average, the period intervening between successive generations is  $33\frac{1}{3}$  years. He concludes, after a summary, that the more nearly complete the record of births in each generation and the greater the number of generations included in the examination, apparently the greater is the tendency to a mean period of one-third of a century. The very ingenious graphic method represented in the diagrams is of itself interesting. The factors which lengthen the inter-generation are large families and marriages in which the woman is much younger than the man.

*A Study of Longevity*, by CHARLES K. CHANDLER. Reprinted from the Transactions of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters. Vol. XIV, Part I. Issued September, 1903, in advance of general publication. pp. 56-62.

The writer has based his work upon the records of eight families extending back to the beginning of the seventeenth century and containing more than 100,000 names. From this it appears that there has been little if any gain in respect to the proportion of deaths among young children. This the writer ascribes to the increase of the perils of infant life, due to growing urban population which balances all hygienic advance. The median age seems, however, to be advancing, which indicates a decrease of deaths in youth and early manhood. This permits the pessimistic view that our advance in overcoming disease is not wholly a blessing because many who by the beneficent working of the law of survival of the fittest would have been removed early in life are now preserved to become the progenitors of feeble offspring. There is a marked decrease in the proportion of people attaining extreme age, despite the increase of the average length of life.

*The Roots of Reality, being suggestions for a philosophical reconstruction*, by ERNEST BELFORT BAX. E. Grant Richards, London, 1907. pp. 331.

Starting from certain postulates united on the consistency of consciousness, the author attempts to rough hew certain indications of the direction in which future philosophic constructions must take place if they are to be even relatively adequate to the needs of the up-to-date philosophic mind. The author is frankly and fully an idealist, although not perhaps in the form in which idealism has loomed largest for modern thought, but he seeks a more adequate formulation. The chief topics are the general problem of conscious idealism, the illogical and the logical as the ultimate elements, the individual consciousness, reality, true and higher consciousness, the final goal of all things and the problems of metaphysics. The author is loyal to, and has a subdominant interest throughout in, sociological problems.